

We claim:

1. A method for the treatment of a patient who has suffered a stroke, said method comprising the application of continuous positive airway pressure to said patient.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said pressure is applied in a bi-level fashion.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said patient's arterial blood oxygen level is improved.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said patient's carbon dioxide blood level is reduced.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein auto regulation of blood pressure, cardiac output and ventilation is improved.

6. An apparatus for the treatment of stroke patients, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) an airflow generator;
- (b) an interface adapted to fit a patient; and
- 5 (c) a conduit for the flow of air from said generator to said interface, said airflow being delivered to said interface at a pressure which exceeds atmospheric pressure for at least a portion of a breathing cycle of said patient.